

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a sheet finishing apparatus having a stacking tray for stacking sheets formed with indicia, a processing tray established in the process to said stacking tray for receiving said sheets, a movable aligning plate

5 established on said processing tray to traverse in movement the discharge direction of said sheets for sheet alignment, a binding means for binding said aligned sheets, the finishing apparatus discharging sheets to a stacking tray wherein;

the aligning of the last sheet of a plurality of sheets employs a

10 plurality of aligning operations, the first aligning operation having a distance from the aligning position of said movable aligning plate to the first aligning operation starting position of L1;

the last aligning operation a distance from the aligning position of the movable aligning plate to the final aligning operation starting position

of L_2 , the relationship between the two distances is $L_1 > L_2$.

2. The sheet-sorting apparatus of claim 1 wherein the final n th sheet and when aligning sheets from the first sheet to the $n - 1$ sheet, a first and a second aligning operation are performed wherein;

5 the distance from the aligning position in the second aligning operation to the aligning start position is L_3 , the relationships between these distances is $L_1 > L_2 > L_3$.